



NATION HONOURS MARTYRS OF THE LIBERATION WAR

The nation marked its 56th Independence and National Day with solemn yet vibrant tributes to the Liberation War martyrs, as President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman placed wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar yesterday. Throughout the day, people of all ages, along with political, social, and cultural organisations and persons with disabilities, arrived with flowers to honour the fallen. Leaders from various parties, including the Jamaat-e-Islami and CPB, also paid their respects.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, PID



'A piece of my heart is gone'

JU mourns Rayan's death in Daulatdia bus plunge

SAKIB AHMED

"My Rayan is no more. A piece of my heart is gone. He has turned my whole world upside down and left me guilty for the rest of my life."

Prapti Taposhi, a former student of Economics department at Jahangirnagar University, said in a Facebook post as she mourned the tragic, untimely demise of Ahnaf Tahmid Khan Rayan, a student of the 49th batch of the same department.

Rayan, his mother Rehana Akter, elder sister, and young nephew Tajbid Bin Mosabbir were among those who went missing after a passenger bus plunged into the Padma river at Daulatdia ferry ghat in Rajbari on Wednesday.

His body was later recovered, confirming the worst fears of his family, friends, and teachers.

Rayan's elder sister, who was rescued, currently undergoes treatment at a hospital.

Back on the JU campus, grief and quiet disbelief engulfed Rayan's friends, teachers, and near ones.

"Rest in peace and strength. What more can I say? What helplessness defines our existence!" wrote Mridha Md Shiblee Noman, assistant professor and chairman of JU's Department of Journalism and Media Studies.

For his close ones, Rayan's social media profile now feels like a cruel archive. His Facebook timeline is filled with photos from Eid celebrations – moments of joy frozen in time – making it hard for everyone to accept that he is no more.

Riddha Anindya Ganguly, former general secretary of the JU unit of Chhatra Union, said, "We will meet again, Rayan. Next time, we won't take a bus; we will board the Hogwarts Express, far away from this world, into some wizarding world."

Alongside being a student, Rayan was a familiar face in JU's cultural and social spaces. He was a debater and also a former general secretary of the Jahangirnagar University Debate Organisation (JUDO). The organisation expressed



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Unlicensed kitchen markets plague DSCC

Only 12 of 116 within Dhaka South registered

DIPAN NANDY

Only 12 of the 116 private kitchen markets operating under the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) are legally registered, while the remaining 104 continue to operate without oversight, often encroaching on footpaths or land owned by government agencies and private individuals.

Although these markets supply essential goods to lakhs of residents, their lack of registration hampers revenue collection and raises concerns over public health, fire safety, and urban management.

To regulate such establishments, the DSCC introduced a policy in 2022 requiring all private markets – excluding supermarkets and shopping malls – to obtain licences.

However, enforcement has been slow. According to data from the DSCC Estate Department, only 12 private markets have registered in the last three and a half years. Of them, only Shantinagar Kitchen Market has a valid, up-to-date licence.

Under the 2022 policy, a private market is defined as any land or establishment where daily trade takes place between multiple buyers and sellers. Operators must obtain a licence from the Estate Department, renew it annually, and comply with zoning,

health, and safety regulations. Failure to comply is a punishable offence under Section 92 of the City Corporation Act, which allows authorities to shut down markets, impose fines, or take legal action.

The licensing process is relatively affordable. Applicants must pay a Tk 500 fee, followed by an annual renewal fee – Tk



These practices deprive the government of legitimate revenue. Authorities should identify such syndicates and investigate whether political figures, influential groups, or law enforcement members are involved.

ADIL MOHAMMED KHAN, Urban planner

215 per square metre for markets on main roads and Tk 108 per square metre for those on secondary roads. For example, a 1,500-square-metre market on a main road would require an annual fee of Tk 2.15 lakh.

On September 2 last year, the DSCC issued a public notice reiterating that operating without a valid licence is illegal and punishable under

the Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009.

DSCC Chief Estate Officer Mobasser Hasan told The Daily Star, "As the policy is new, many people are still unaware of it. We are working to raise awareness. After Eid, we will begin conducting mobile courts against illegal markets."

He added that the corporation plans to re-inspect these sites to assess their suitability for commercial use. "We will verify whether the locations are appropriate for markets before making a final decision," he said.

Urban planner Adil Mohammed Khan said operating private raw markets without licences is unlawful, as it violates the 2022 policy.

He noted that these markets generate significant revenue, a portion of which should go to the city corporation. He called it a failure of authorities.

He questioned how such markets continue to operate and under whose patronage, suggesting the possible involvement of syndicates engaged in extortion.

"These practices deprive the government of legitimate revenue," he said, adding that authorities should identify such syndicates and investigate whether political figures, influential groups, or law enforcement members are involved. "If proven, legal action must be taken."

Zubaida stresses global partnership for child welfare

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Zubaida Rahman, spouse of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, joined the closing session of the "Fostering the Future Together: Global Coalition Summit" at the White House in Washington, DC on Wednesday.

The two-day summit, attended by first ladies and spouses of leaders from over 45 countries, focused on advancing children's well-being and future prospects. Dr Zubaida participated at the invitation of US First Lady Melania Trump.

Leading a four-member delegation, she was accompanied by Dhaka University Professor

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Dhaka urges action against slavery, oppression

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman has called for intensified global efforts to confront slavery and oppression, urging renewed international action while addressing a UN General Assembly commemorative meeting.

He made the call while speaking at a meeting marking the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Wednesday, according to a message received by BSS yesterday morning.

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Boats remain moored along the banks of the Buriganga in Keraniganj upazila of Dhaka, as the city has yet to return fully to its usual hustle and bustle following the Eid holidays. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BEGUM ROKEYA UNIVERSITY, RANGPUR Liberation War monument lies incomplete after 13yrs

S DILIP ROY

Construction of "Swadhinata Smarak", the first Liberation War monument on Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) campus, remains incomplete even after 13 years, despite the change of five vice-chancellors at the university.

The monument has an 11,696-square-foot base, featuring three fringe-like stone pillars that symbolise the participation of people from different walks of life and their sacrifices in the Liberation War.

A 20-foot tunnel like canopy will connect the pillars, representing the unity and collective struggle of the people during the war. The pillars will bear engravings depicting wartime memories, with murals behind them.

According to BRUR sources, the monument's construction began in December 2012 during the tenure of the then vice-chancellor Prof Md Abdul Jalil Mia, with funding from Janata Bank.

The foundation stone was laid on November 28, 2013, by the then VC Prof Dr AKM Nur-un-Nabi. However, the work was halted shortly afterwards. Later, the

construction work resumed during the tenure of the following VC, Prof Dr Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah.

The project's cost was initially estimated at Tk 1.30 crore. Later, the then VC Prof Kalimullah proposed increasing the budget to Tk 4.30 crore.

However, following allegations of corruption in the project, the Ministry of Education in December 2019 instructed the university to conduct an investigation through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

As the investigation found evidence supporting the allegations, the ministry halted the work of three major projects of the university – the Swadhinata Smarak, a research institute, and a 10-storey female dormitory.

Since then, these projects have remained stalled for years. Although the construction of the research institute and the female dormitory resumed recently, work on the Swadhinata Smarak did not.

Tasbiul Habib Nishad, a student of the Political Science department, said, "The current administration has resumed many stalled projects. I hope the work on this

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